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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/856,905	09/04/2001	Rolf Kohler	10191/1855	6294

26646 7590 10/07/2005

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EXAMINER

TRAN, PHILIP B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2155

DATE MAILED: 10/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/856,905

Applicant(s)

KOHLER ET AL.

Examiner

Philip B. Tran

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 November 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/29/01 & 11/22/04.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 11-12 are objected to because of the following informalities: in claim 11 and 12, line 2, "applicable" should be "applicable". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 10-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ardon et al (Hereafter, Ardon), U.S. Pat. No. 5,105,420.

Regarding claim 10, Ardon teaches a method for selecting a function to be implemented at a terminal of a control unit, the method comprising the steps of selecting the function to be implemented from one of at least two different functions by using a pre-definable code for providing an implemented function and suppressing other ones of the at least two different functions (= the switching system includes a central switch 2055 with control unit 2061 for providing switch communication between different selective switching units 2031 & 2032) [see Abstract and Figs. 4a-4b & 6 and Col. 9, Lines 33-67 and Col. 11, Lines 6-63].

Regarding claims 11-12, Ardon further teaches the method according to claim 10, wherein the at least two functions are implemented by at least two different signals applicable to the terminal of the control unit, one signal of the at least two different signals of the function to be implemented is selected by the pre-definable code and applied to the terminal, and other ones of the at least two different signals are suppressed and wherein one function of the at least two functions is implemented by a signal applicable to the terminal of the control unit, the signal of the function to be implemented is selected by the pre-defineable code and applied to the terminal, and other ones of the at least two different functions are suppressed [see Col. 11, Lines 6-63 and Col. 14, Line 32 to Col. 15, Line 11].

Regarding claim 13, Ardon further teaches the method according to claim 10, wherein one of the at least two functions includes a use of the terminal of the control unit for providing a bidirectional communication connection of another control unit to the control unit [see Figs. 4a-4b].

Regarding claim 14, Ardon further teaches the method according to claim 10, further comprising the steps of suppressing the other ones of the at least two different functions during a time period, switching the function to be implemented from a previously implemented function to one of the other ones of the at least two different functions and suppressing the previously implemented function [see Col. 11, Lines 6-63].

Claim 15 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 10.

Regarding claim 16, Ardon further teaches the device according to claim 15, further comprising an arrangement for selecting and clearing a function path of a function to be implemented independently of a code and for suppressing the at least another function path [see Abstract and Col. 13, Line 51 to Col. 14, Line 20].

Regarding claim 17, Ardon further teaches the device according to claim 15, wherein the first function includes a signal output unidirectionally over the first function path [see Fig. 6].

Claim 18 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 13.

Other References Cited

4. The following references cited by the examiner but not relied upon are considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- A) Khotimsky et al, U.S. Pat. No. 6,788,686.
- B) Haung et al, U.S. Pat. No. 6,308,282.
- C) Salama et al, U.S. Pat. 6,584,093.
- D) Reichmeyer et al, U.S. Pat. No. 6,286,038.

5. A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE TO THIS ACTION IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. FAILURE TO RESPOND WITHIN THE PERIOD FOR RESPONSE WILL CAUSE THE APPLICATION TO BECOME ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). EXTENSIONS OF TIME MAY BE OBTAINED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF 37 CAR 1.136(A).

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-3991. The Group fax phone number is (703) 872-9306. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar, can be reached on (571) 272-4006.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Philip Tran

Philip B. Tran

Art Unit 2155

September 29, 2005